

REMARKS

In the official action of May 7, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 on Suk, Claims 12-15 on Sebillotte, Claim 16 on Beluzzi, and Claims 17 and 19 on Beluzzi in combination with Elexpuru. These claims have been amended in order to more clearly define the present invention and to more sharply distinguish over these references. In addition, the specification has been amended primarily to provide clear antecedent terminology for the language used in the claims.

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in the light of these amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly recite that the locking flanges of the cooking pot are fixed to, and extend radially inwardly around, the open end of the cooking pot. This sharply distinguishes from Suk wherein the corresponding flanges (9) are not fixed to the cooking pot, but rather are fixed to ring 10 which is rotatably mounted (on rail 8) with respect to the cooking pot (cooker 1). Thus, in the pressure cooker defined in Claim 1, the lid is manually roatated to either its locking or unlocking positions with respect to the flanges on the cooking pot, as distinguished from Suk wherein the ring 10 is rotated (by a motor 14) to lock or unlock the lid with respect to the cooking pot.

It is believed that Claim 1, as amended, is now clearly allowable over Suk.

Claims 2 – 11, which were previously indicated as including allowable subject matter, all depend from Claim 1 and are therefore believed allowable with that claim for the above reasons, in addition to the further features recited in those dependent claims.

Claim 12 has been amended in order to more sharply distinguish over Sebillotte. Thus, Claim 12, as now amended, includes the features that the lid is fixed to its gripping handle by a pair of fastener pins (38, 39); that the safety interlock includes a control member (control slide 40) formed with a pair of elongated slots receiving the fastener pins and guiding the movement of the control member between its first and second positions, as clearly illustrated, for example, in Fig. 10 of the drawings. Such a construction is not present in Sebillotte, and it is submitted, therefore, that Claim 12 is allowable over that reference.

Claim 13 has been amended to conform to Claim 12 from which it depends. Since Claim 13, and also Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 12, it is submitted that these claims are also allowable with Claim 12 apart from the further features recited in the respective dependent claims.

Claim 16, rejected on Beluzzi, has been amended to recite that the lid is rotatably mounted over the open end of the cooking pot. This supports the recitation at the end of Claim 16 bringing out that the lid is rotated with respect to the cooking pot to the locking and unlocking positions of the lid.

Neither such a construction nor operation is present in Beluzzi where the lid (3) is pressed against the open end of the cooking pot and the handle (10) is pivot to lock or unlock it from the cooking pot. It is submitted, therefore, that Claim 16 is also now allowable. Claims 17 – 19 all depend from Claim 16, whereas Claim 20 depends from Claim 1, and therefore these dependent claims are also believed to be allowable with their respective independent claims apart the additional features set forth.

The requested corrections to the drawings are merely to correct a number of minor errors. Upon the approval of such corrections, new formal drawings will be submitted including these corrections.

It is believed that this application is therefore now in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sol Sheinbein', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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